



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

SPO device used in New York recovery

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

A prototype device that can detect the motion of a heart through 30 feet of rubble was used during recovery operations in New York, thanks to the work of 311th Human Systems Program Office staff who have been evaluating it for Air Force use.

“The Remote Casualty Location Assessment Device was originally developed by the University of California’s Lawrence-Livermore National Laboratories for the Department of Energy,” said Maj. Al Gracia, 311th SPO’s chief of the Warfighter Requirements, Commercial Products and New Technologies Branch.

Through Gracia’s effort, three RCLADs were dispatched to New York following the terrorist attack. While these probes didn’t find any victims alive, their ‘field testing’ during actual rescue operations have validated their potential for military use.

It piqued Air Force interest because it met two needs. “First, it can detect motion, such as heartbeats and respiration using multiple radar frequencies that are not affected by concrete, wood and most (debris) material,” Gracia said. Secondly, it meets the military requirement of assessing the condition of combat casualties to determine whether to expose rescue personnel to hostile fire. “Historically, we’ve lost between 20-30 percent of medics who were killed trying to rescue people who were already dead. By using this device, we can assess a casualty’s vital signs before exposing others to danger,” explains Gracia.

See SPO support

Attack on America: Brooks responds



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Heightened Security

Traffic lines up at Brooks main gate while security forces personnel check identification and vehicles as a result of heightened security measures following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

SPO support of New York recovery effort a ‘techno-thriller’

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Hollywood couldn’t have written a better script for what a Brooks worker went through to deliver experimental probes, designed for finding people buried alive, to the New York site known as ‘ground zero.’ Not only did Maj. Al Gracia prevail in his Don Quixote-like quest on behalf of the Air Force to help save lives, but the adventure in which he was the hero also underscored his commitment to helping his family deal with the tragedy.

As scientists scanned the rubble at what was New York’s World Trade Center using prototype devices that can detect a heartbeat through 30 feet of debris, the 311th Human Systems Program Office acquisition officer could take solace in knowing he had played a role in helping search for survivors.

“Two of my wife Carol’s cousins are married to New York City firemen. My participation let my family know the Air Force was doing everything it could to help out,” he said.

Gracia’s race against time began the day before the attack. At the Pentagon, the Office of the Undersecretary of the Air Force for Acquisition received a funding proposal for a patented gizmo called RCLAD, Remote Casualty Location Assessment Device. The proposal by its inventors at Lawrence-Livermore National Laboratories was submitted by the 311th SPO to develop it further for Air Force use. Air Force Materiel Command headquarters had received the same proposal on Sept. 7.

The Air Force is interested in RCLAD, Gracia said, because of its unique capabilities, including detecting vital signs of casualties trapped under rubble.

The day after the terrorist attacks, Gracia received an urgent telephone call from AFMC headquarters. “The AFMC director of requirements asked how many of the prototypes were available. I told him we had two prototypes ready to go, plus personnel to operate them,” Gracia recalls. He said they were interested in deploying the devices to New York to help rescue workers find people buried in the debris.

The first hurdle for Gracia and his team was finding air transportation for the Lawrence-Livermore scientists in the wake of the federal ban of all aircraft flights nationwide. The chief scientist was stranded in North Carolina. His colleagues were in California.

“They (AFMC officials) told me to tell my guys to pack their bags and be ready. Cell phone service was spotty (then). I tried to arrange air transportation within 24 hours of getting a hold of them. “I contacted the National Guard Bureau,” Gracia said. “It was serendipitous that I found a National Guard C-23 that had stopped for refueling at Raleigh-Durham Airport. They were on a mission to New York transporting rescue equipment required to support 25 search dogs.” Gracia also knew that the chief scientist, who had one of the prototypes with him, had gone to the closest airport.

Gracia had arranged for the scientist to get on the plane, but he only had 40 minutes to do so. The scientist, who was stopped in a long line of cars at an airport checkpoint, was unaware that Gracia had arranged transportation for him. “I told (airport) security guards to look for a man in a rented Silver Impala. They found him and provided a police escort to the

other side of the airport where the pilot of the C-23 had turned off the engines to conserve fuel.”

The pilot told Gracia, “I have room for one guy and 100 pounds,” which elicited the major’s reply, “Okay, I have one guy and 70 pounds of baggage.” The scientist, worried about abandoning his rental car during heightened security, was again helped by Gracia who arranged with security police ‘valet service.’ “I told the scientist to forgive me for not providing him with a meal,” Gracia joked.

Gracia, however, was not out of the woods yet. He had to persuade officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to arrange air transportation for them when everything was shut down. His urgent pleas resulted in the Secretary of the Department of Energy providing his personal aircraft to transport the California scientists.

Getting all of them there was a major achievement. Getting past site security was nearly impossible.

“These nine scientists were not dressed like rescue workers and had devices unknown to anyone in the search and rescue community,” Gracia related. Gracia cut through the proverbial ‘red tape’ with the help of many key people. Sept. 15, Gracia stunned his family when he reached the scientists by phone from his home. “My wife and kids were listening in amazement as I talked to them at ground zero. I could hear the sound of machinery in the background.” His family could also hear him breathe a sigh of relief for overcoming seemingly impossible obstacles that they believe was achieved through God’s help.

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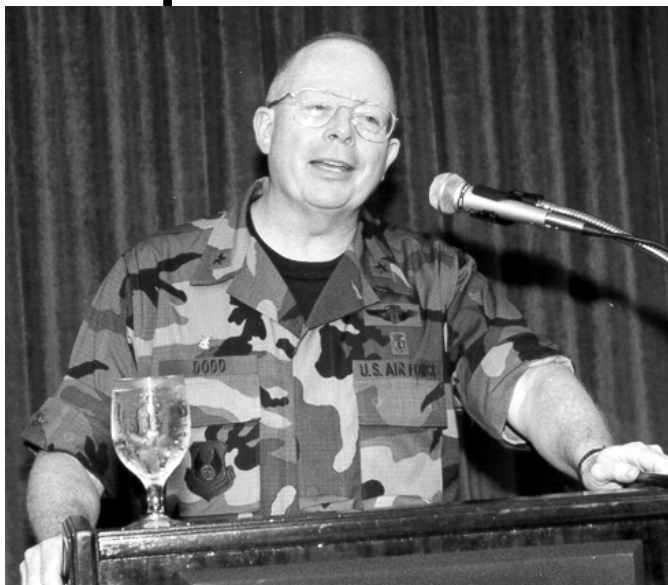
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Simple words from our commander



“Just a few notions on how to get through all this.”

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311 Human Systems Wing commander

“I’ve thought about this for a week and decided to share some very simple thoughts with you.

No flag-waving. No lofty ideals. Nothing that will ever be quoted in a presidential speech.

Just a few notions on how to get through all this.

First, keep perspective. As always, never lose sight of what is truly important to you.

Next, keep balance in your life. Our intellectual, emotional and spiritual, and physical sides

all need attention. Third, accept the fact that we will eventually equilibrate to a steady state. We will have a “normal” life we can live with and enjoy... it will just be a bit different than the “normal” we used to have. Life will go on for almost all of us.

We will never truly eradicate terrorism because there will always be sociopaths seeking their 15 minutes of fame.

What we can do, though, is severely reduce major, state-sponsored terrorism as an in-

ternational political tool.

Be proud that you are part of that effort. In doing this we are protecting liberty everywhere and leaving something meaningful.

Fifth, you can’t do it all yourself. Just do your best every day according to the tasks set before you and your values, but don’t create extra adrenaline over what you can’t control or accomplish.

Grow personally and professionally. You’ll be of greater value to your community and will feel good about yourself when you do.

Think about God-however you understand or believe Her-once in a while.

Eat properly. Play some. Laugh a lot. Spend time with your family. Root for (or against) the Cowboys.

Finally, keep perspective.

Simple stuff...nothing you didn’t already know.”

The Difference

Note: Sacrifice is a concept familiar to military people. We live it everyday as we carry out our global mission. It’s an established part of our service to our country, whether we wear the military uniform or serve as civilians.

Often overlooked, though, are our spouses, who often bear the brunt of our choice to follow the higher calling of military and government service.

The following editorial by retired Lt. Gen. Edward Heinz captures the essence of the significant role our spouses perform, day in and day out. -- Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander

By Retired Lt. Gen. Edward J. Heinz

Over the years, I’ve talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom, too. The funny thing about it is most military spouses don’t consider themselves different from other spouses.

They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military spouses get married and know they’ll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with flair tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military spouses have immaculate living room-dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won’t see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won’t see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses get used to saying “hello” to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to

saying “good-bye” to friends made the last two years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted in yet another new school next year.

Other spouses can count on spouse participation in special events...birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child. Military spouses only count on each other; because they realize that the Flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom’s Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad’s funeral.

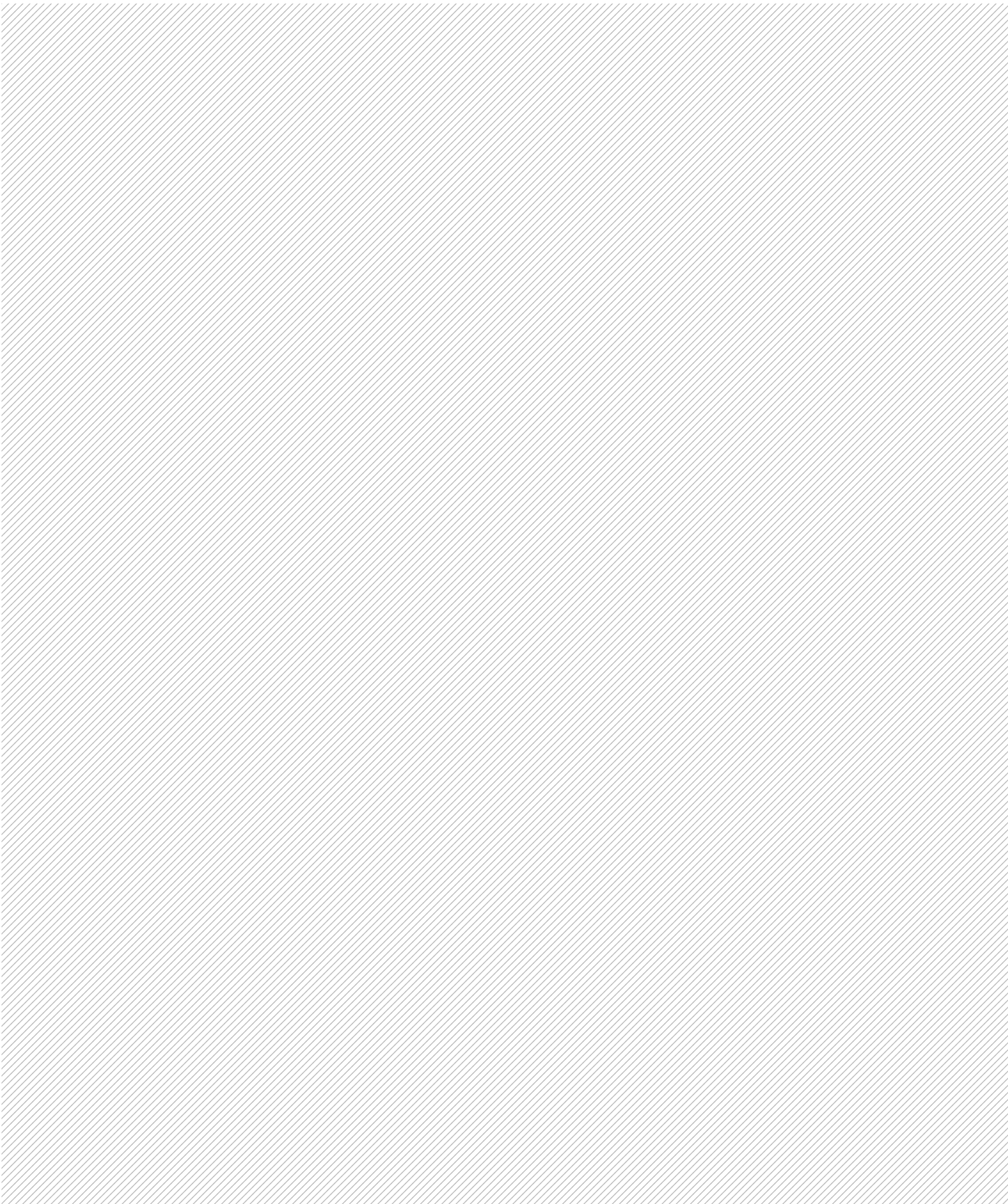
And the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it touches other spouses. The card simply says “Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been 60 today.” A military spouse is the one with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference.

And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives.

Perhaps the price they pay is even higher. Dying in service to our country isn’t near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

God bless our military spouses for all they freely give. And God bless America.





Department of Defense authorizes Stop-Loss

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The secretary of defense has authorized the use of Stop-Loss measures to support President Bush’s campaign against terrorism, Air Force officials at the Pentagon said Sept. 20.

The decision, which gives service departments the authority to retain members beyond established dates of separation or retirement, was made by Donald H. Rumsfeld Sept. 19, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy for the Air Force.

“The purpose of this action is to meet mission requirements in support of Operation Noble Eagle and any follow-on operations regarding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the nation,” she said.

Those attacks, in which hijackers flew airliners into New York’s World Trade Centers, in addition to the Pentagon, killed thousands of Americans and sent shockwaves throughout the world. In a Sept. 20 address to Congress, President Bush responded to the attacks by essentially declaring war on the world’s network of terrorism.

As a result, as many as 50,000 reservists — including people in each branch of service — have been called to active duty in recent days.

Title 10 of U.S. Code permits the president to enact Stop-Loss measures when such a call-up takes place, Middleton said.

“Title 10 permits the president to suspend any provision of law relating to promotions, retirements and separations during any period when members of any reserve component are on active duty under involuntary mobilization authorities,” she said.

Middleton said that the Air Force will employ a “total force approach” to capitalize on the unique

composition of each force element, including active duty members, Guard and Reserve.

Capt. Amy Anderson, chief of retirement and separation policy for the Air Force, said the key will be to ensure the service retains the critical skills needed for mission requirements. At least for the short-term future, the policy will affect all bluesuiters.

“The initial Stop-Loss period for all Air Force specialties will be for at least 30 days,” she said.

“All retirement, separation or component transfer actions will be suspended until termination of Stop-Loss, unless an exemption is applicable or waiver is granted.

This (Air Force Specialty Code) list will be revised and made available to the public as requirements are validated.”

A few exceptions will apply, Anderson said.

“This suspension does not apply to the mandatory separation or retirement of personnel because of disabilities, or hardships,” she said. “But, officers being separated due to nonselection to captain, major or lieutenant colonel will not be exempted.”

The captain added that separating or retiring members who, as of Sept. 22, have an approved effective date on or before Oct. 1, or who had made arrangements to ship household goods on or before Oct. 1, are exempt from Stop-Loss.

In addition, those people serving an overseas unaccompanied assignment where the tour length is 15 months or less, and who will retire or separate upon tour completion, are also exempt.

Personnel officials said military personnel flights around the Air Force have additional information regarding Stop-Loss implementation.

Secretary, chief of staff: A higher calling awaits

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — When he took the reins of the U.S. Air Force on Sept. 6, Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper hardly could have imagined what the future held. That a ruthless band of terrorists would attack in less than a week ... that he and his wife would attend a stirring presidential address to the Congress, preparing the nation for war on terrorists ... that the Air Force would play a key role in that war.

Yet, those were the realities as the new chief of staff spoke to more than 200 Air Staff officers, enlisted and civilians Sept. 21 at the Pentagon.

After his introduction by secretary of the Air Force, James Roche, Jumper spoke of events of the week before, saying the world changed for everyone Sept. 11.

“Once again, airmen stepped forward and responded that day in a heroic way,” he said. “We’re in a different mode. The president said it better than anyone else could — we are going to march forward in a very determined way.”

The Air Force, he added, is ready for the challenge. “We were on a transformational path already.”

“In 1997, General Ryan said we’re going to take this AEF idea and make it work for the whole Air Force. So we’ve been in this period of transition for an extended period of time, and in doing so we’ve made ourselves ready for the events that confront us today.”

It helps, he added, that the entire country is now once again behind the U.S. armed forces, with a single objective in mind: eradicate terrorism and the people and organizations who generate it. Sitting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff during President Bush’s Sept. 20 address to Congress, he saw firsthand the

solidarity behind this most important cause.

“If there is any one place where you can feel the power of the nation at work, it’s in that body,” he said. “And what you saw was a very diverse group of people come together behind the president.”

The president’s speech, he said, was extremely effective, for a very simple reason.

“His heart is in this,” Jumper said. “You get the feeling there is a passion involved in this ... there is nothing clinical about it. Of course, we’re used to that. We do business on that basis all the time, or we would not be wearing the blue suit. But the nation has it now. You get this profound sense that we have just crossed this very difficult bridge ... civilians are now as much a target as people in uniform. It’s frightening, but it’s also galvanizing.

“The whole nation is looking at us in uniform to do the nation’s business. Is there any higher calling than that? I don’t think so.”

Then, turning to Roche, “Mr. Secretary, I am proud to be a part of this team. We have before us today, the greatest Air Force in the world. And we are soon going to be able to demonstrate that fact once again.

We will soon have to go into harm’s way once again, and the men and women of the U.S. Air Force are going to make it happen. It is going to be magnificent, because we’re going to do it standing side-by-side.”

Down the road, the general said, today’s airmen are going to look back at this time with pride.

“The things you tend to look back on are the things most important to you,” he said. “I can’t remember every year I got a pay raise, but I remember the 11th of September and I’ll remember the events ahead of us today.”

U.S. patriotism sparks increase in recruiting

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — With patriotism running high, Air Force Reserve Command recruiters are seeing a jump in inquiries since the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

“We normally average 200 internet leads a day, which are our most promising leads,” said Col. Kevin Reinert, deputy director of recruiting at AFRC headquarters. “In the past week, we’ve averaged 450 leads a day.”

AFRC recruiting’s national telephone line usually averages 150 leads per day, Reinert said. During the week after the terrorist attacks, the recruiters averaged 600 to 800 calls a day.

That number jumped to 1,600 calls Sept. 17.

Some of the calls were from military retirees wanting to return to Air Force Reserve duty.

“People who contact us through the internet can type in some remarks,” Reinert said. “Usually we receive questions about available benefits or particular job opportunities. That’s a lot different now; many people just want to know how they can serve the United States in any capacity.”

Some of the comments the recruiters have received include, “I want to serve my country to prevent forever what happened on September 11th.” Another person said, “I was thinking about joining the Air Force Reserve for a while since I left active duty. The time for thinking is over; it’s time for action. Our country needs everyone’s help.”

Air Force Reserve Command has an authorized end-strength of 74,470 reservists.

“We are within a few hundred of our upper limit and are more than 99-percent manned right now,” Reinert said.

“By the end of September, we will be at 100 percent. But, we are always looking for hard-to-fill, warfighting support positions, such as aircraft maintenance, fuels specialists, air transportation specialists, medical technicians and services personnel.”

Air Force reservists range in age from the youngest at 18 to physicians and chaplains in their 60s, Reinert said. The average reservist is about 34 years old with 12 to 14 years of active-duty and Reserve service.

Officials ban uniforms on flights

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force people are no longer authorized to wear their uniforms when traveling aboard commercial aircraft, Air Force officials said.

The uniform prohibition, approved by Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, Sept. 21, is directly related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

“The bottom line is force protection,” said Lt. Col. Bruce Lovely, chief of Air Force quality of life and uniform activities.

“Due to our concern for force protection, we want to make our folks less visible on commercial aircraft.”

The policy ends the June 2000 recommendation that colonels and above, and chief master sergeants, wear their uniforms when traveling on official orders within the United States.



Comm Squadron maintains service in midst of ‘cyberwar’

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They are waging their own ‘war’ on many fronts against unseen enemies who so far have failed to disrupt communications at Brooks.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against America, the 311th Communications Squadron has successfully maintained telephone and e-mail service at a time of peak usage and heightened security.

“We increased our security awareness to a level we’ve never gone to before, directed by DoD through Air Force Materiel Command,” said Maj. Tim Hartje, 311th Communications Squadron commander.

The increased vigilance directive went into effect during after-duty hours on Sept. 11 as communications specialists here worked through the night to implement computer hacker countermeasures.

“Master Sgt. Jay Wilson, NCOIC of the Network Control Center led

the effort along with Airman 1st Class Quentin Williams.

They took immediate and corrective action when they were notified by higher headquarters about the threat,” Hartje said.

One of the cyber threats, Hartje noted, is a variant of the Code Red Worm that imbeds itself into servers, becomes dormant, then at a specified time replicates while attacking other web servers through the World-wide Web. It can also infect computers by way of a virus that attaches to an email as an executable file.

“The bad guys are trying to cause a denial of service. We took action on our public websites as a countermeasure. inaccessible to Brooks users for

24 hours.

Some of our countermeasures have included asking customers to minimize all non-essential and unofficial e-mail traffic and outbound telephone traffic, and to stop web surfing,” he said, noting that these countermeasures remain in effect until further notice.

Hartje credits the Base Information Assurance Office, the NCC and all base organizations IA contacts for fighting a successful cyberwar campaign.

“We’re trying to keep communications secure, uncorrupted and not vulnerable to any malicious attacks,” Hartje said.

This is a war that is won everyday.

“ We’re trying to keep communications secure, uncorrupted and not vulnerable to any malicious attacks. ”

Maj. Tim Hartje
311th HSW Comm Squadron Commander

These people fight it by insuring that all base systems are up to date on security measures even when changes occur daily, and by maintaining vigilance, watching what attempts to enter the base network. It’s a neverending vigil.

He also praised Brooks’ telephone operators for their professionalism, especially Sept. 11 and subsequent days when they were inundated with calls primarily from personnel who were asked to stay home.

“Initially, our operators were flooded with calls. However, the telephone switch was able to handle the traffic,” he said. Hartje explained that local cellular phone service also successfully operated here.

“I’m proud of how our organization was ready to handle the crisis,” Hartje admits, referring to his team’s innovative responses in providing service to important information venues such as the Command Post, Casualty Affairs Office and several unit control centers.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd

311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
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Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626

Brooks home to chemical, biological, radiological rapid response teams

BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE — Nuclear, biological and chemical rapid response teams that can deploy from Brooks are a major piece of the fabric that can provide support for Homeland Defense.

Personnel from the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis provided support in response to the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 and stand ready to respond if needed in the future.

Environmental samples collected by nuclear, biological, and chemical teams at the World Trade Center and Pentagon sites were analyzed by AFIERA to evaluate environmental and occupational health needs for search and rescue personnel at both locations.

The samples collected were collected and analyzed under strict analytical protocols and within very short time frames.

Part of the National Laboratory Response Network, not only can the Rapid Response Teams respond quickly to scenes, but the instructors from AFIERA train Bio-Engineers for the Air Force and other field teams.

Following a request from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, AFIERA experts met with response personnel in Edison, N.J., five days after the World Trade Center disaster.

EPA and FEMA officials requested DoD support to assist in determining the environmental and occupational health needs for the WTC and the Pentagon. The meeting resulted in a comprehensive plan of how best to address these the health concerns at “ground zero.”

Experts from AFIERA have been asked to make themselves available on short notice for other chemical, biological or radiological support needs in the future.

One of the tools used by the teams from Brooks is portable evaluation equipment, known as Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device.

RAPID is used to detect and identify communicable or contagious agents to humans and the environment that could be a health hazard. The data gathered is then used to support numerous clinical and surveillance functions for patient care and treatment.

Investigations RAPID is capable of include outbreaks in hospital and field environments, determination of antibiotic resistance, and the identification of strains for vaccine production, and detection of environmental hazards.

AFIERA's mission is to enhance mission effectiveness, protect health, improve readiness, and reduce costs through the assessment and management of risks to human health and safety, operational performance and the environment.



Chapel staff comfort Brooks community in uncertain times

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They offer a measure of hope during uncertain times as the Brooks community is coming to grips with its spirituality and mortality following terrorists' devastating blow to our peaceful way of life.

"People are wanting to make sense of something that you can't make sense of. We've seen an increase in the number of people seeking help. The people's main concern is their sense of security has been altered," said Brooks Protestant chaplain Capt. Stephen Allen.

The chapel staff has been busy ministering to a variety of people who have been directly or indirectly affected by terrorism. Allen explains, "Some people have told us they can't sleep. They're dreaming about the tragedy. They keep seeing the picture of the plane hitting the tower."

Anxiety is prevalent among Brooks community members with whom chapel staff have contacted. "There's a lot of apprehension and frustration. I've talked to many people who are classified 'non-essential' who said it was agonizing for them to have stayed home (on Sept. 12-13). They had a tough time because they needed that sense of contribution."

Classified 'non-essential,' Allen nonetheless was allowed on base when Brooks was under Threatcon Delta. "I needed to be around as a reminder to everyone that God is with us even in terrible times."

On the day of the terrorist attacks, Allen received a telephone call from U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace

Medicine's Maj. Karen Agres who voiced her concern about several students whose relatives were unaccounted for in New York and the District of Columbia.

"I went over to the dorm and visited with a group of six students," Allen recalls. He said three of them had not heard from relatives who had worked at or near the World Trade Center. "One student had an uncle and a cousin who had worked on north tower's 86th floor. It was later confirmed that the uncle had survived," Allen related.

While this tragedy is without precedent, such an event has had a particularly de-stabilizing effect on young airmen who are away from home for the first time. Allen said, "I gave them a safe forum in which to talk about things that were on their minds."

These young adults share concerns common within the Brooks community, chapel staff noted. "We have all asked ourselves how we're going to contribute (during America's war on terrorism). I've advised students to contribute by engaging in their studies and to excel as airmen. Their jobs are essential to the Air Force," Allen said.

Lt. Col. Dennis McCarty, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain, has no-

ticed the same types of emotions here that were prevalent in 1994 when he ministered to Turkey's Pirinlik AB community. That community was shocked by the loss of 26 people killed

when two Army Black Hawk helicopters were shot down over northern Iraq.

"I knew those people. I had visited with them before they took off. I helped inventory the bodies," McCarty said.

Brooks Chapel outreach included five prayer services and several unit visits during the first week of the tragedy. USAFSAM students helped distribute flyers in base housing inviting families to a special Sept. 12 prayer service. "We had several families attend the prayer service as well as many students from the dorm," Allen noted.

For the first time in chapel history, worshippers witnessed a live telecast there of the national prayer service broadcast from the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. "It was a spur of the moment thing," Allen said of the chapel's use of television to participate in the national day of prayer inaugurated by President Bush.

McCarty's Sunday service message to a packed chapel drew parallels between the Second Coming of Christ and the terrorist attacks. In both events, McCarty said, no one was (or will be) truly prepared for it.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

One of the many Brooks Chapel messages of comfort displayed since terrorist attacks on America.

McCarty used an excerpt from Islam's holy book, the Koran, to convey an enlightening message. In part, the passage McCarty shared states: "There are some people who use the presence of suffering and evil in this world as grounds to lose hope and perhaps even reject God....We are responsible for what we do, and must bear the consequences....The evil that we do and suffer from is chosen by us and not by God..."

The chapel staff conducted a special collection at last Sunday's service for victims' families and caregivers. The offering will be donated to the National Military Family Association in Alexandria, Va.

While the tragedy has ignited a new wave of patriotism in America, chapel staff is concerned about the safety of our Moslem citizens. McCarty cautions against intolerance, fueled by hatred, that's directed against a specific class of people. Brooks encompasses people of many faiths, including those who subscribe to Islam.

The chapel staff encourages the Brooks community to show the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood exemplified by rescue workers in New York and at the Pentagon.

"People find hope in their faith. Our belief that God is with us is going to help us get through these times. It's my hope that we don't alienate ourselves from one another, but draw closer together. We (all) need reassurance that God has not abandoned us," Allen said.

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Brooks firefighters stunned by losses within brotherhood

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Their first thoughts were for the safety of their brethren who sacrificed themselves to save others during the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history. Now they grieve in silent disbelief, not fully comprehending the horror their brothers faced when two commercial airliners slammed into New York's World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11 resulting in the deaths of more than 300 New York City firefighters.

"When the first building collapsed, the first thing that I thought was 'where are all the firefighters?' My heart just sank. I knew a bunch of firefighters were there," said Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Hill, Brooks deputy fire chief.

The mood at the base firehouse has been somber. Firefighters there don't talk much among themselves about the attack, opting instead to perpetually



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks civilian firefighters Bryan Blackwell (left) and Alan Hedrick are stunned by the loss of brother firefighters killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

monitor the situation through news broadcasts. The tragedy underscored what they already knew: that life is particularly fragile while serving in an extremely dangerous occupation.

"We understand that our job is dangerous, but there is a brotherhood among firefighters," Hill said while bowing his head as if praying. He and his colleagues are experiencing a wide

range of emotions, from pain and anger to frustration and guilt. "I wish I would have gone up there to help them as a volunteer," says Hill, his voice choked with emotion.

"It was a shock. I can't believe this has happened. I really didn't think the buildings were going to collapse as they did," said civilian firefighter Alan Hedrick.



Photos by Yolanda Hunter



'A Tribute to America'

With the American flag as a backdrop, the Air Force Band of the West from Lackland Air Force Base (top), performs patriotic music during "A Tribute to America" Sept. 25 at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Also performing at the event were country music stars Larry Gatlin (far left), who sang the National Anthem and Lee Greenwood, who performed God Bless America, the Lord's Prayer and his No. 1 hit God Bless the U.S.A. San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church Choir provided vocal accompaniment. The tribute was broadcast live nationwide on cable TV's Golf Channel.

Hedrick recalls, "All of us were in the bay getting ready for roll call when we heard over the public address that a plane had hit a tower in New York." Everybody then piled into the TV room to witness the unthinkable.

"I didn't think they (New York firefighters) were worried so much about combating the fire. They were concerned with evacuating people from the buildings," said civilian firefighter Bryan Blackwell. He added, "I'm the father of three little boys. It really hit me hard. What are they going to tell the children (of the dead firefighters)? It's going to be difficult telling them that their moms and dads are not coming home."

Blackwell noted with pride how all of them felt when they saw firefighters at the Pentagon display a huge American flag in preparation for President Bush's visit there. "Our own brothers had done it. We had special feelings (about it)," Blackwell said. For a moment, the patriotic gesture had assuaged some of their concerns about the future.

The public outpouring of appreciation for all police and firefighters, who historically have been taken for granted, has also helped bolster their morale.

While many Americans now place police and firefighters at the top of their list of public heroes, Brooks firemen know that they, and that of all those who serve at the federal and state level, must work together to help restore some sense of normalcy and stability. Blackwell said, "It's going to take time for everyone to feel safe and secure again. We must be patient and willing to accept the security checks."

What firefighters throughout America are now assessing is a reevaluation of how they conduct rescue and recovery operations involving skyscrapers. Three Brooks military firefighters agree that future training must focus on developing firefighting skills associated with multi-storied buildings.

"In our training at Goodfellow Air Force Base [Texas], 90 percent of it involved structural fires in buildings two to three stories," said Senior Airman Eric Moore. Moore explained that standard training in high-rise fires is, when possible, to take an elevator to the floor below the fire, then climb a staircase to the level of the fire while carrying about 70 pounds of gear.

To them, no place is immune to the potential for an attack. "If it can happen there, it could happen here," said firefighter Airman 1st Class Steven Garcia.

The attack in New York was particularly sobering for Moore who five days before it occurred had flown from Boston's Logan Airport enroute back to Texas. "I flew over New York and saw the World Trade Center towers," he admits.

Equally haunting is Hill's experience of meeting the U.S. Navy doctor who was on board the U.S.S. Cole when terrorists attacked it last fall. "I met him in August at a DoD fire and emergency services conference in New Orleans. The firefighting crew on the U.S.S. Cole won the DoD Heroism Award.

"We're held to a higher standard because the public puts a lot of trust in firefighters," said Senior Airman Robert Garcia. He asks the Brooks community for their prayers and for their financial support through contributions to relief funds for victims' families.

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See related story on Page 12.



Courtesy photo

AFIERA Awardee

Gen. Richard Myers, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (left) and Tuskegee Airman Colonel Charles E. McGee present the 2001 Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Frances Barbour Military Award to Senior Airman Agnes Bradt at the Tuskegee Airman Inc. annual convention held recently in Memphis, Tenn. Bradt, assigned as a medical laboratory journeyman in the immunology laboratory of the epidemiological surveillance division at the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis received the award based on her contribution to the Epi Lab's healthcare mission, as well as base and community activities. Tuskegee Airman, Inc. recognized her for her support to more than 350 Department of Defense facilities worldwide and the Air Force Surgeon General's recruit immunization screening program and the U.S. Air Force.



September Yards of the Month

(Top photo) Maj. Kevin Culp, of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, and his family receive September Yard of the Month honors from Col. Terry Nelsen, 311th Air Base Group commander. Tech. Sgt. Miguel Padin, also of AFIERA, and his wife also accepted yard of the month honors. Yard of the month winners receive a \$25 gift certificate from Services and a \$10 gift certificate from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. They also receive a flag and certificate.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez



NEWS
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2001 Combined Federal Campaign Drive kicking up

The 2001 Combined Federal Campaign, "Giving to Make a Difference," kicks off Oct. 1 at Brooks.

This year's campaign begins with a kick off breakfast that morning at 7:30 in the Brooks Club. Tickets are \$5 and are available from unit CFC key workers.

The CFC is an annual fund raising drive that allows federal workers to support charitable organizations worldwide.

CFC contributions help local, national, and international organizations.

Local organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio, Fisher House Inc., American Red Cross San Antonio Chapter, and Alamo Children's Advocacy Center are among the organizations that could benefit from this year's contributions.

When Brooks members choose to donate, they designate which agency or agencies receive the gift. Donations can be made by automatic payroll deduction,

cash, or check. All contributions are confidential and can be made anonymously, if desired. Unit key-workers and their representatives can assist with donations.

With the recent tragedies at the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon, an additional list of organizations that represent special relief funds and national CFC participating charities involved in relief efforts is available at:

www.opm.gov/cfc.

Those who wish to provide direct relief to the victims through their CFC contributions can do so by designating a payroll deduction or by making a cash or check contribution to the organization of their choice.

The local CFC administrative structure insures that these contributions are forwarded to the designated organizations.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Hill, Brooks deputy fire chief, relived his experience with terrorists while watching the Sept. 11 attack at New York's World Trade Center.

Overseas terrorist attack makes Brooks firefighter more 'cautious'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

As the only Brooks Fire Department member to have experienced a terrorist attack, Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Hill, deputy fire chief, knows that the Sept. 11 acts of terrorism at New York's World Trade Center and at the Pentagon will have a permanent impact on surviving firefighters' response to future situations.

"It made me a lot more aware of what is going on around me. I (now) have a heightened sense of awareness," said Hill about his experiences following the 1982 terrorist attack at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Nothing in this 21-year Air Force veteran's career could have prepared him for the post-attack effects on his psyche that flared anew while watching live TV coverage of the collapse of the twin 110-story World Trade Center towers.

"I was walking into the Ramstein dental clinic when I heard a blast down the street. I didn't know what it was then. I spent six to seven hours at the clinic as the base locked down under Threatcon Delta," recalls the 40-year-old Lubbock, Texas, native.

Terrorists had exploded a device inside a fire extinguisher that had been placed underneath a car parked in front of the Ramstein AB headquarters. "Before that happened, I didn't bother locking my car doors. At home, I use to leave my windows open," admits Hill.

Personal security became an issue for him and his colleagues following the attack. "We really made sure that everything was secure. Everybody had to produce two forms of identification. We got a little bit paranoid because we felt vulnerable," he said.

Seventeen years later while on temporary duty to Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, Hill's memories of the attack fueled his cautionary approach to a fire call. At the time, he was conducting a manning assistance visit there as acting deputy fire chief.

"A (security) guard called me to report a car was on fire across the street from the main gate. When I arrived there, it (situation) didn't look right," he said. Hill assessed the situation as suspicious, based, in part, on the fact that the vehicle driver could not be found.

"We purposely limited the number of firefighters sent in (to investigate)," Hill said, explaining that he wanted to restrict the number of potential casualties if the car fire turned out to be something other than what it appeared to be.

"It's always in the back of my mind," Hill confessed when referring to the potential for terrorist activity disguised in what normally would be considered routine situations.

He empathizes with his brother civilian firefighters in New York who didn't realize the magnitude of the consequences that would befall them.

Hill knows they will be forever haunted by memories of a nightmare that in future years will resurface when they respond to future emergencies.

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“ I was walking into the Ramstein dental clinic when I heard a blast down the street. I didn't know what it was then. I spent six to seven hours at the clinic as the base locked down under Threatcon Delta. ”

Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Hill
Brooks deputy fire chief



Brooks Air Force Ball

The Brooks Air Force Anniversary Ball has been rescheduled for Oct. 12 at the Brooks Club.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m and dinner at 7 p.m. Semi-formal or mess dress and After-5 attire for civilians is appropriate.

Anyone with tickets who is unable to attend on the rescheduled date will receive a refund.

Travel office changes

Oct. 6 the contract travel office for official travel will change. SATO Travel will be replaced by N&N Travel & Tours, Inc.

Although the phone number will remain the same, 536-1800, the fax number will change to 535-3047.

All unused tickets must be turned in to SATO prior to Oct. 4. SATO will issue tickets all day Oct. 4, but will only issue emergency tickets, purchased on a government travel card until 2 p.m. Oct. 5.

The office will be closed Oct. 8, and will only issue emergency tickets Oct. 9. They expect to be fully operational Oct. 10 and will be open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Travelers who have scheduled flights from Oct. 5-10 should pick up their tickets prior to Oct.5.

For more information, contact the Travel Section at 536-2644 or 536-2690.

Tuskegee Airman meeting

The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., San Antonio Chapter will hold an open meeting Oct. 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Brooks Club. The Club's lunch service is available. All members, potential members, 2000 TAI Convention volunteers, and others interested in learning the legacy and ideals of some World War II heroes are invited.

NEWS briefs

Call Maj. Gill at 652-4109/5735 or Rick Sinkfield at 536-4188 for more details.

Use or lose leave

As of Sept. 11, active duty service members who were in a use/lose leave status and lose up to 20 days between Sept. 11-Sept. 30 are authorized to have that leave restored. Those who accumulate annual leave in excess of 60 days, as shown on the end of month leave and earning statement are authorized to retain that leave, not to exceed 90 days, until the end of fiscal year 2002.

Active duty is defined as all active duty personnel under Title 10 of the United States Code. It also includes all Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel who are in full-time training, or other full-time duty for a period of more than 29 days, performed under Section 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of Title 32, for which they are entitled to pay.

Members who lose in excess of 20 days leave must submit an individual request for correction of military records in order to get those additional days restored.

Contact Master Sgt. Pam Martin at 652-3415 for more information.

Comptrollers luncheon

The Air Force Center for Enviornmental Excellence will host the American Society of Military Comptroller's Alamo City Chapter October luncheon Oct. 16 at the Brooks Club.

A social is scheduled for 11 a.m., and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

For tickets or information, call Betty Ann Rosales at 536-1335 no later than Oct. 11.

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. today in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. Everyone is invited to attend and to support those members being promoted to their next grade.

Brooks Toastmasters

Toastmasters is a non-profit international organization formed in 1924 with the goal of making effective communication a worldwide reality.

Members practice their public speaking in a relaxed, self-paced learning environment. Brooks Toastmasters meets Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Commissary Closing

Sept. 28 marks the last day the Brooks commissary will be open for business. Other local commissaries, including those at Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston are still open.

Thanks goes out to the employees of the Brooks commissary from the entire Brooks community.

Brooks Ambulance Service

The 311th Medical Squadron's ambulance service is closing. Beginning

Oct.1 the City of San Antonio Emergency Medical Services will provide ambulance coverage for Brooks and will bill the patient's insurance.

An insurance company may not pay for ambulance service if it determines the condition was not an emergency.

An emergency condition is a sudden and unexpected medical condition or worsening of a condition that threatens life, limb or sight and requires immediate treatment.

Dormitory residents should contact their supervisor, first sergeant or commander for transportation aid that doesn't warrant ambulance transport.

If you have questions about TRICARE ambulance coverage call the TRICARE Service Center at 800-406-2832.

Clinic notes

Cold and flu season is just around the corner. Please remember that the Brooks Clinic has sick call by appointment only.

Since the elimination of walk-in sick call the clinic is providing additional appointments, with the goal of reducing unnecessary wait times.

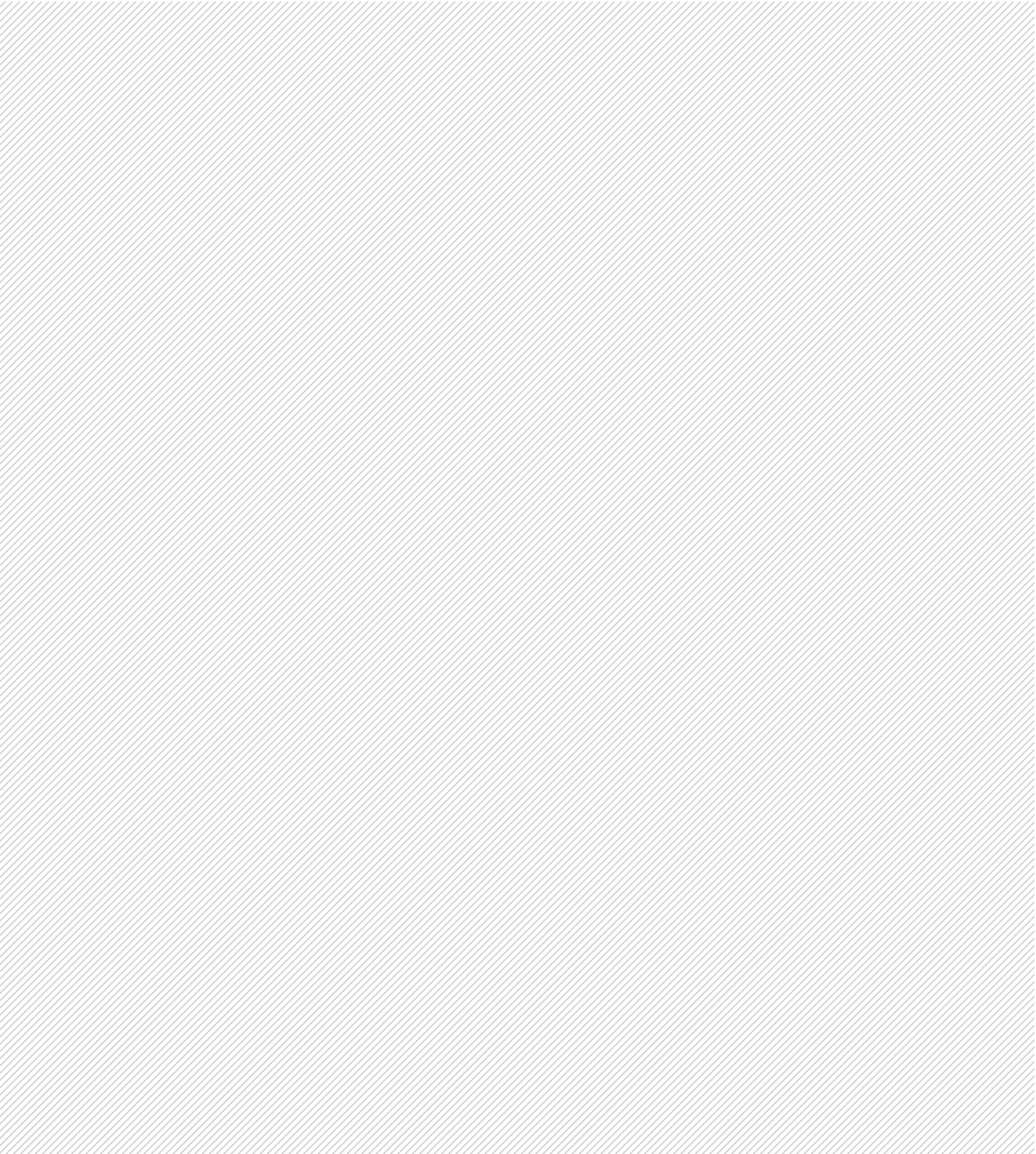
Call 536-1847 as early as 7 a.m. for sick call appointments.

Dental screenings

The Pediatric Dental Department at Lackland AFB provides drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries one day each month.

Children 14 years of age and younger will be seen at the Skylark Community Center from 8-11 a.m. Oct. 10, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

Children will receive dental exams, opinions about their dental condition and treatment recommendations. Call Airman 1st Class Marnie Thetford at 292-3327 for more information.





Kadena, Zama personnel assess health of Russians in Vladivostok

By Carlos Bongioanni
Okinawa bureau

KADENA AIR BASE - U.S. military aircraft don't normally fly in and out of Russian airspace.

But last month, Russian officials cleared a Kadena-based -130H aircraft to transport a team of U.S. military environmental specialists and a thousand pounds of medical supplies to Vladivostok.

It's an indication of increasing trust between the former superpower foes, said Air Force Lt. Col. Bryan Ramstack, commander of Kadena's Det 3, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

Ramstack headed the five-member team that visited the port city to aid local health officials in assessing health hazards there.

The U.S. military has sent teams to help the Russians assess health hazards there for the last four years. Vladivostok is known to have high levels of pollution after decades of unchecked industrial waste dumping under the old Soviet regime.

Known as the San Francisco of Russia, the hilly

city has a European look to it and lies about 60 miles east of China's border. It is just across the main Japanese island of Honshu on the other side of the Sea of Japan.

During this year's weeklong mission, four Kadena personnel and a chemist from Camp Zama, Japan, took hair samples of children to test for contamination from heavy metal exposure from nuclear waste. In only days, they were able to prepare 120 hair samples. The team also brought 1,000 blood-testing kits to allow Russian medical officials to see immediate results of blood tests. The country has limited supplies to conduct such tests. Along with supplying the test kits, U.S. team members assisted the resident officials in taking samples.

In past years, the U.S. specialists helped the Russians collect and assess air, soil and water samples to identify environmental contaminants. This year, officials are collecting and analyzing human samples.

This year's mission marked the first time the Russians allowed the U.S. military to do its own

airlift, said Ramstack.

"In the past, we have gone in commercially ... but through a lot of coordination with the State Department, we were able to get the clearance to go in with our own assets. We brought it up in previous years as one of the goals we would like to see fulfilled on these trips," said Ramstack.

Getting the clearance was the biggest success of the trip, he added. It saved the U.S. military from having to spend for transportation and excess cargo fees for the supplies they brought, and allowed them to spend more on humanitarian medical supplies.

The annual missions evolved from Operation Provide Hope, which began donating surplus medical equipment to the former Soviet states in 1994.

In 1998, U.S. and Russian officials expanded the scope of their cooperation and began missions aimed at addressing environmental issues, training health care workers and offering disaster-response training.



Brooks Fire Department leaves legacy of service, commitment

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They are quiet heroes whose countless acts of service and bravery have largely gone unnoticed by the Brooks community. Their mission here now is near an end as most of them move on in October to a new assignment at Lackland Air Force Base.

Since the base's inception in 1917, the Brooks Fire Department has been an integral part of the life of this community.

No one alive knows better their contributions to base safety and security than Brooks Fire Chief Edgar (Ed) Lee.

"I'm glad the firefighters were able to maintain jobs within the local area. I told them, 'your future is in your own hands'," said Lee, who is undecided about his own future plans.

His position as fire protection manager will be retained here along with Mel Archambault, the fire/security electronics technician. The other 20 civilian firefighter positions are being laterally re-assigned to Lackland AFB. Brooks military firefighters will eventually be re-assigned to other bases.

While the San Antonio Fire Department will assume most duties once performed by base firemen, a

Brooks Fire Department remnant will have an active presence here.

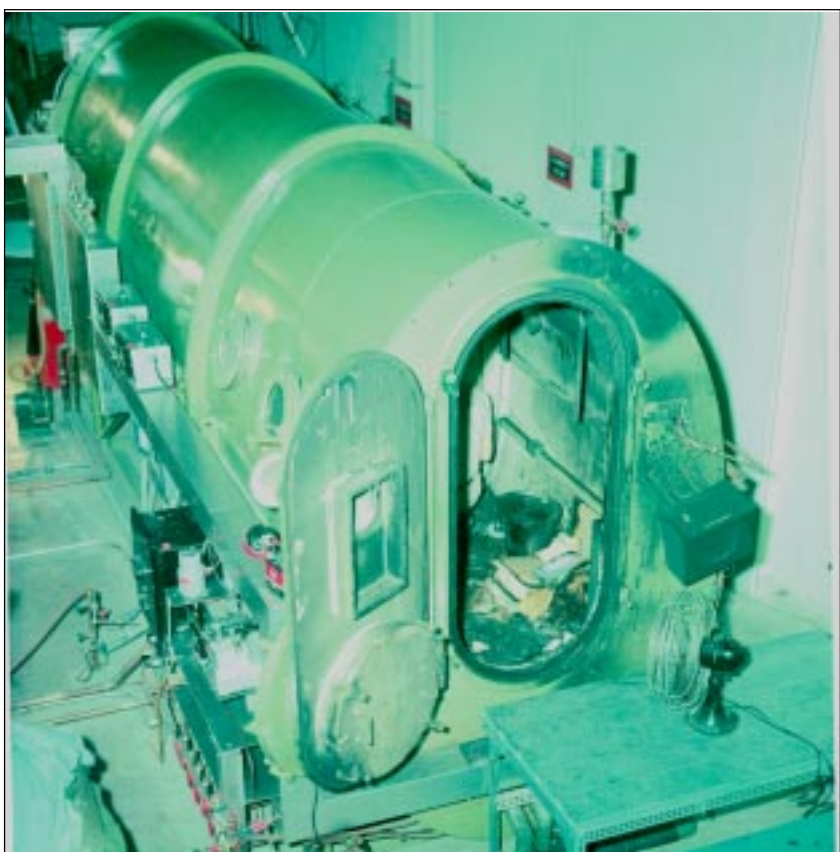
"The fire/security electronics technician (Mel) will continue to be responsible for all fire alarms on base," Lee said. Archambault's responsibilities include fire alarm testing, maintenance and installation. His role will have an impact on future base construction in that he's responsible for reviewing all construction plans to ensure alarm system design is correct, explained Lee.

Lee, who has been Brooks fire chief since 1974, said the fire protection manager's responsibility is to ensure base facilities are safe through periodic inspections.

Safety always has been the Brooks Fire Department's number one priority. So much so, that the base has maintained a fire loss rate unmatched in the



THIS IS just about the most efficient group of men on Brooks Field. Reading from left to right, as they stand by their apparatus, they are Corp. George Bagdonas; Corp. John Peters; Lieut. E. L. Hurst, Fire Marshal; Sgt. 1st. Cl. John Reynolds, Fire Chief; Pvt. 1st. Louis C. Zwieback; Pvt. 1st. Cl. Edward Perez; Corp.



Courtesy photo

In 1967, two airmen died in a flash fire in one of the hyperbarics chambers, the only fire-related fatalities the base has had since the runway closed in 1960. Because of the potential for fires caused by oxygen-induced accidents, Brooks firefighters monitor all hyperbaric chamber dives where patients are treated with oxygen.

Air Force. "We haven't had a significant fire loss of government property in the past 20 years," noted former Brooks Fire Protection Technical Services Officer Sherman Gresham who now serves as the Hazardous Materials Officer and Assistant Fire Chief at Lackland AFB.

Lee added, "This is the best fire loss (rate) in the Air Force."

They attribute this success to aggressive training and education of the base populace.

This is no small accomplishment on a base where research activities involve a lot of combustible material.

"My primary concern has been chemical storage safety. One of the most critical things we do is inspect labs to ensure chemicals are stored properly," Lee said.

He recalls an incident in which a can of ether was stored in a non-explosive proof refrigerator.

"The can tipped over and the refrigerator blew up," Lee remembers.

One of the most prevalent fire dangers here, however, is oxygen use.

The most serious incident in recent years occurred in Building 160 when a military member was severely burned in a flash fire caused

during an oxygen mishap.

Two flash fires in the 1960s involving research chambers underscored how deadly oxygen mishaps can be.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Bill Henderson recalls the first space cabin fire in 1962. He said NASA required Brooks scientists to use 100 percent oxygen for space cabin atmosphere experiments to reduce spacecraft payload.

Two captains nearly succumbed from smoke inhalation during a simulator flash fire, he recalls.

In 1967, 20-year-old airmen Richard Harmon and William Bartley, Jr. died during a similar incident.

"Once we got to altitude it (fire) happened. I heard a loud noise. I looked up at the porthole and saw flames. It happened that quickly," recalls Bjorn Dybdahl who had been the simulator operator.

Lee said their deaths are the only fire-related fatalities the base has had since the runway closed in 1960.

Because of the potential for fires caused by oxygen-induced accidents, firefighters monitor all hyperbaric



“ I’m glad the firefighters were able to maintain jobs within the local area. I told them, ‘your future is in your own hands.’ ”

Ed Lee
Brooks Fire Chief

The first Brooks fire department, circa 1918. Since then the fire department has been housed in the historic Hangar 11, which no longer exists, and their current location in Bldg. 640 since 1966. The Brooks fire station closes in October.

Carl M. Hartman and Corp. Daniel Cleary, assistant chief. To these men is due not only 100 per cent protection from fire (Brooks Field has never lost a building, big or little) but also a great part of the landscape work that has made the post so attractive. The Fire House, and adjacent terrain, has been a splendid example of artistic gardening.

Courtesy photo

chamber dives in which patients are treated with oxygen therapy. One of the latest projects Archambault will continue to be involved with is upgrading the hyperbaric chambers’ “deluge system,” designed to extinguish fires through high-pressure sprinklers. While there never has been a fire associated with Brooks hyperbaric chamber operations, since 1950 nearly two dozen people have died in hyperbaric chamber fires worldwide. Today’s firefighters have a lot more to contend with than just putting out and preventing fires. They are among the first to respond to hazardous material spills, biological contamination mishaps, bomb threats, false alarms, vehicle accidents and a host of other emergencies, both real and imagined. In simpler times, Brooks Fire Department personnel primarily responded to aircraft fires when the base had a flying mission. Brooks’ most spectacular aviation fire occurred on Oct. 14, 1922 when a hydrogen-filled dirigible was destroyed following an explosion. Hangar 13 was the only major Brooks structure destroyed by fire since the 1960s, Lee recalls.

“The common misconception has been that we ‘just put out fires’,” Lee said. Among the many community service initiatives Lee has initiated over the years was unlocking vehicles for ‘locked out’ motorists. He said, “We saved an estimated \$75,000 for the people we helped who otherwise would have paid a locksmith between \$40-50 a pop.” While they no longer unlock vehicles, they still help ‘locked out’ workers into their buildings or rooms. Once housed in Hangar 11, and the current occupants of Building 640 since 1966, the Brooks fire station will close in October. While the end is bittersweet for Lee, he says he is content in knowing that they contributed to the overall safety of the base.

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Army Fisher
house
3 x 4



Relief act protects servicemembers

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — For people in the U.S. armed forces, there is no greater responsibility than providing the nation's defense. It takes precedence over all other obligations.

That fact, coupled with ongoing operations in support of President Bush's campaign against terrorism, has led Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to institute the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, effective Sept. 24.

Enacted by Congress in 1940, the act is designed to protect military people from certain legal obligations while providing the nation's defense.

The act provides assistance to members during legal proceedings and with meeting financial obligations.

Military service often hampers peoples' ability to protect their rights, said Maj. William Youngblood, reserve judge advocate, Air Force legal assistance division at the Pentagon.

"The purpose of the SSCRA is to strengthen the defense of the United States by suspending enforcement of some civil liabilities so servicemembers can devote their entire attention to defense," he said.

"It's beneficial for every servicemember to be aware of the law's general provision so they'll know when they are involved in a situation and may be protected."

Youngblood said the law applies only to full-time active-duty people, including the activated reserve component. It provides five types of protection for financial obligations. They are:

- Postponing collection actions on any civil obligation;
- Prohibiting repossessions and foreclosures without court permission;
- Setting a maximum interest rate of 6 percent on all pre-service obligations;
- Allowing servicemembers to terminate leases with 30 days prior notice; and
- Permitting the Veterans Affairs to guarantee life insurance premiums in order to continue coverage.

"Creditors do not have an affirmative duty to find out whether SSCRA might apply when a loan or other obligation is not repaid in a timely matter," Youngblood said. "In order to take advantage of these protections, the servicemember must advise the court or creditor that SSCRA protections are sought."

It is also important to remember that none of these protections apply if the obligation is incurred after entering active duty."

However, the relief act provides additional protection for obligations arising both before and after entering active duty.

These include the postponement of legal actions until such time as the service member is able to return and adequately protect his or her interests. To obtain this protection, the court must be advised of the active-duty commitment and find the service member's participation has been materially affected. Youngblood said it is best to contact a legal assistance attorney before asking a court to stay in a proceeding of this nature.

The act also prohibits courts from entering default judgments against active duty servicemembers unless the party filing the action follows specific guidelines set forth in the statute.

Youngblood said landlords with military tenants also have restrictions. A service member who enters a lease for less than \$1,200 a month cannot be evicted for up to three months without a court order.

Other protections include:

— The relief act extends the time when a service member may file suit or have suit filed against them by eliminating the time served on active duty. Youngblood said because legal actions are filled with pitfalls, it's best to speak with an attorney before allowing any period of limitation to expire.

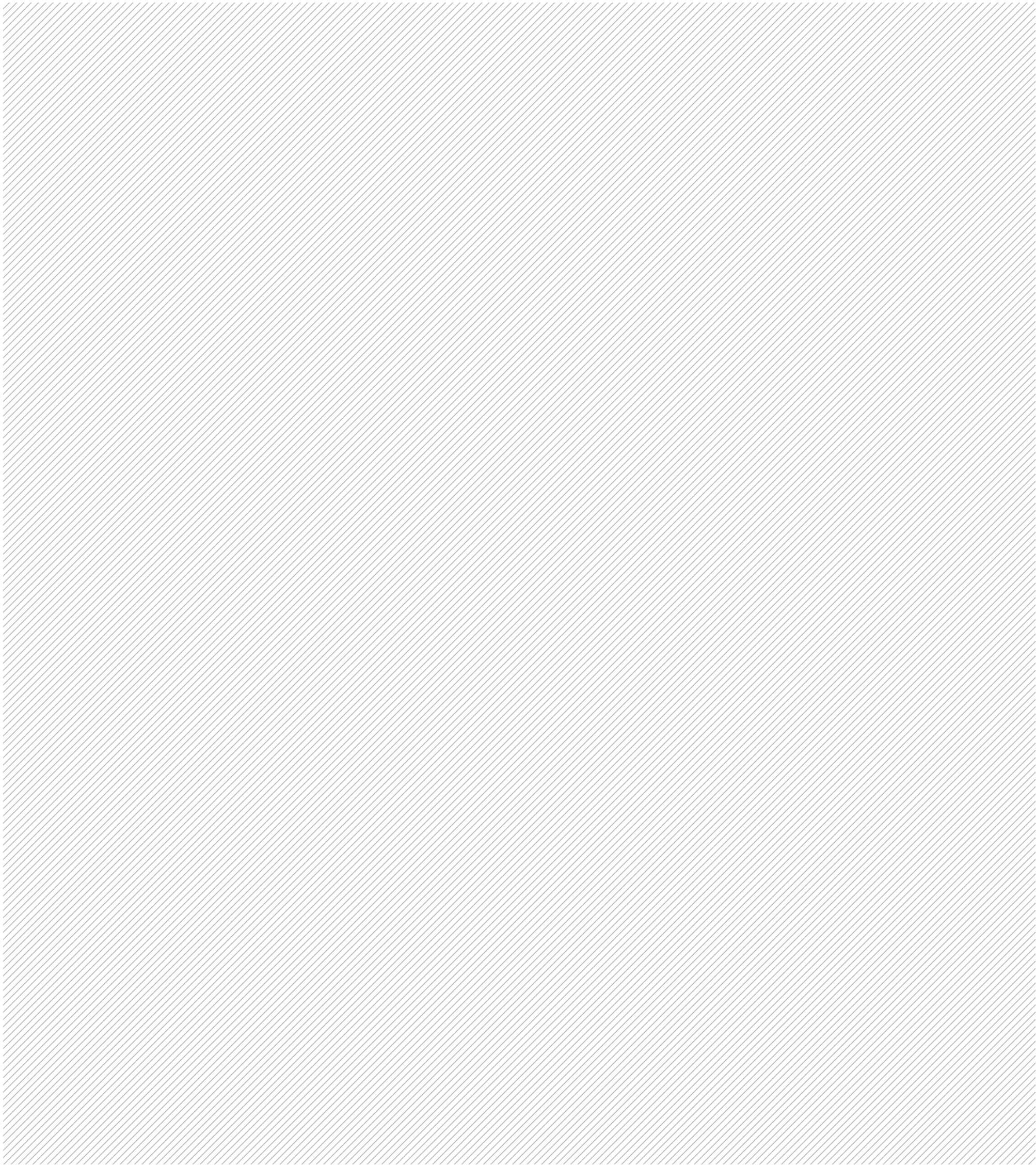
— Active-duty people cannot be taxed other than by their state of domicile. This prohibits multiple states from taxing people.

— Powers of attorney are extended for military people missing in action.

— Health insurance companies are required to reinstate any coverage in effect the day prior to active duty that was terminated during military service for both the person and their family.

Youngblood said it is important for people to know that creditors and insurance companies cannot initiate adverse credit ratings, deny credit or take any adverse financial action based solely on the fact that a military person invoked the protections of SSCRA.

For more information, contact your local legal assistance office.





Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Investment series, mutual funds

11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Oct.2, Bldg. 538 —

This investment series prepares the beginning investor: basic investment terms, fundamental investment principles, what mutual funds are, how mutual funds operate, how to start investing in a mutual fund, different types of stocks and bonds, types of IRAs, and other aspects of investing.

Digging out of debt workshop

11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Oct. 3, Bldg. 538—

Learn how to live debt free and stick to it! Find out if you have too much debt,the consequences of debt and how to get out of debt.

Smooth move

12:30- 3 p.m., Oct. 9, Bldg. 538—

(Pre-registration necessary)

PCSing? Hear briefings from the traffic management office, legal, medical clinic, finance, housing, and the family support center—and ask your questions. This seminar is open to all active duty members, Department of Defense civilians, and spouses.

PCS overseas

3 p.m.-4 p.m., Oct.9, Bldg. 538—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move and staying for this class.

Credit repair workshop

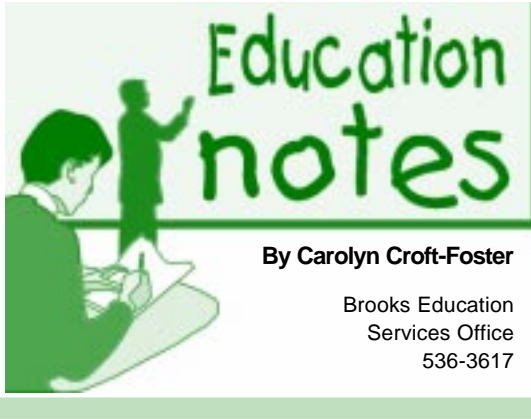
11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Oct. 10, Bldg. 538—

Are you one of the millions of consumers refused credit each year? If you are, you need to know why. A bad credit record can make it difficult to get a loan, find a job, rent an apartment, buy a car, even get insurance. If you’ve thought about filing bankruptcy, already declared bankruptcy or experienced serious financial difficulties in your past, you can rebuild your credit.

Balancing work & life (PFMP Orientation)

8 a.m.-noon, Oct. 11, Bldg. 538—

This class is mandatory for members whose first duty station is Brooks. By starting off on the right track, one can avoid common mistakes members make. Learn basic money management skills and get acquainted with the programs and services available to you.



VEAP conversion to MGIB

Servicemembers who have VEAP accounts are eligible to convert to the Montgomery GI Bill. Education Services is contacting members whose names appear on our list of eligibles.

If you believe you are eligible and have not been contacted, contact Education Services in Bldg. 570-C. Call 536-3617 for more information or to schedule a conversion briefing.

On-base registration for Flex 2

Palo Alto is offering courses at Brooks for the Fall Flex 2 semester, beginning Oct. 22 and continuing through Dec. 14. All courses are applicable to the Community College of the Air Force.

The courses include: speech, literature, biology, history, supervision, and computer literacy. Registration began Sept. 18.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment with a representative from Palo Alto College, call 536-3617.

Attention Fall CCAF graduates

The Aerospace Education Foundation's Eagle Grant provides a one-time grant of up to \$400 to selected top Air Force enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force, and planning to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

Eagle Grants are endowed by the Aerospace Education Foundation through corporate contributions and donations from the Air Force Association members and their chapters.

Fall graduates who are interested in applying should stop by Education Services in Bldg. 570-C to pick up an application if they did not receive one in the mail.

Packages must be submitted by 2:30 p.m. Oct. 10.

Call 536-3617 for more information.

Officer Training School

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. The next deadline for applications is Oct. 2. For more information, call 536-3617.

OLLU

Our Lady of the Lake University Weekend College will hold a back-to-school information session Oct. 27 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at 411 S.W 21st St, Main Bldg. 230.

For more information about undergraduate weekend college call 431-3995 or visit the web site at: www.ollusa.edu.

For graduate weekend college information call 431-3972.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on VA benefits or would like to speak with an Education case manager about VA education may call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551, visit their website at: <http://www.va.gov/education>, or stop by the local VA field office.

VA information is also available on the Brooks Home Page and at the Customer Service Desk at the Brooks Education and Training Flight in Bldg. 570-C.





CGOC’s help NCOs ‘CLEP’ to head of the class

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In a variation of Steve Martin’s “The Man With Two Brains,” the Company Grade Officers Council and senior NCOs have put their collective heads together to launch a new mentorship program designed to help enlisted members leapfrog to the head of their class. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Master Sgt. Dan Meadows and 1st Lt. Mike Wyman, more than a dozen officers at Brooks have volunteered to tutor enlisted members who are trying to earn college credit through various tests such as CLEP (College Level Exam Program) “I thought it would be a good idea to help enlisted people knock out some educational requirements,” Meadows said in reference to leveraging the expertise of young officers at

Brooks, many of whom are fresh out of college. Meadows approached 311th Human Systems Program Office co-worker Wyman about soliciting support from the CGOC. “I e-mailed officers to ask for their help,” Wyman said. Those who responded later took sample CLEP tests to determine the subject they were best suited to tutor, he explained. “We evaluated each other based on the tests we took and came up with a list of volunteers,” Wyman said. Volunteers are from the 311th Human Systems Wing,, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Air Force Research Laboratory, the 311th Human Systems Program Office and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks. Wyman’s list resembles a

mini-college course handbook. The mentorship program currently offers tutoring in math, chemistry, biology, social science, general science, accounting, humanities, French, Spanish, business and history. Enlisted members who plan to participate in the program can obtain the list of tutors from Master Sgt. Christopher Geackel at the Education Services Office. Students are responsible for directly contacting the tutor they select. “Initially, we plan to tutor students during lunchtime meetings. Future plans include setting up a standard time for team teaching,” Wyman said. The base library and USAFSAM classrooms are proposed class sites should the need arise to tutor large student groups. He said their

most urgent need is to obtain donated CLEP test material. Meadows was the first student to sign up to be tutored. “I’m trying to CLEP algebra. I’m currently working on a business administration degree,” Meadows said. He previously earned college credit through CLEP tests for English, speech and humanities while earning an associates degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force. “I encourage anyone to take advantage of this unique (tutoring) opportunity, because the chances are you won’t find such a program when you PCS to another base,” advised Meadows. Meadows said CLEP exams are free to active duty military and are a great way to get a jumpstart toward a degree.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

CGOC Notes

September meeting
The next CGOC meeting is today at 3 p.m at the Brooks Club.

Community service events:

Between 10 and 12 volunteers are needed to help serve food to low income and homeless individuals at the Saint Vincent DePaul Food Shelter in downtown San Antonio at 4:30 p.m. , Oct. 18.

Looking for 10-15 volunteers to visit and deliver pre-packaged baked goods to patients at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital Nov.15 at 4 p.m., leaving Brooks at 3:30 p.m. To volunteer or for more information, contact Capt. David Koles at 536-2322 or by email at david.koles@brooks.af.mil.



Youth football to resume play in wake of game cancellations

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks Youth football is tentatively scheduled to resume play here Sept. 29 after several games were cancelled following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

"We have figured out a way to hold practices and games on base," said Brooks Youth Sports director Larry Flores, referring to coordination with the 311th Security Forces Squadron. Players, coaches and family members on a pre-approved list will be granted base access provided they have proper photo identification, Flores said, noting that participants are restricted to the event venue.

"The majority of players, coaches and family members don't live on base," Flores said, explaining that a total of six games that had been scheduled for Sept. 8 were cancelled, in part, because of security concerns.

"The general consensus among players and coaches was not to play out of respect for the victims of the terrorist attacks," Flores said.

The last time Brooks Youth Sports cancelled games was in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War. The entire baseball season was cancelled, Flores said.

The most recent game cancellations affected not only 80 Brooks athletes, their coaches and parents, but opposing teams who compete against them in both tackle and flag football contests. Restricted access to Brooks also forced some practices to be held off base, Flores explained.

Brooks has two tackle football teams and four flag football squads composed of youngsters ages 6 to 13. These teams compete in a league consisting of squads from Randolph and Lackland AFBs, the city of Live Oak and from the Stone Oak, Denver Heights and Valley sections of San Antonio.

The Brooks Youth Football season is scheduled to end Nov. 3. Due to the national emergency, Flores hasn't ruled out the possibility that the Brooks Youth football season may be interrupted again through game cancellations. Should that possibility arise, contact Flores for more information at 536-2515.

Brooks soccer coach honors fallen victims of terrorist attacks

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

One of the earliest displays of public unity following the terrorist attacks was played out at an unlikely venue through the spontaneity of a Brooks soccer coach whose idea created a memorable moment in the history of local youth soccer.

Long-time soccer rivals briefly put aside their youthful preoccupation with their highly competitive sport to pay tribute to the victims and families of the national tragedy during an emotional impromptu pre-game ceremony that Capt. Larry Schad inspired on Sept. 15 at the Retama Polo Grounds.

Schad, the 311th Human Systems Wing Plans and Program's deputy chief of the Air Force Human Systems Integration Office, admits he got the idea for the pre-game ceremony about 45 minutes before game time.

"It was spontaneous. I first approached Connie Perdue, the opposing coach, and (later) the officials about my idea of having both teams line up at midfield," Schad said. What ensued is without precedent at a youth soccer match between 15-year-old boys.

Perdue recalls the moment in an e-mail message: "After such an emotional week, I was not sure I'd be too into the game. After all the sniping and bickering on these boards even in the aftermath of such tragedy, I did not feel I had the heart for any of this anymore, but that changed today.

"Before the game began, Avengers coach Larry Schad asked each team to go to the center of the field where they alternated players into a chain of blue-white-blue holding the U.S. flag in the middle.

"After a request for a 30-second silence in honor of the fallen, a voice sang out God Bless America. It was the most touching moment I have seen in soccer. It renewed my faith in why we play and the basic goodness of most people in this sport."

"I've never seen anything like that before," said Schad who still gets goose bumps thinking about it. What made the moment particularly significant to Schad was the use of his American flag that he previously had no intention of displaying at that match.

"I brought it to the game to show my assistant coach Mark Villarreal. In 1994, through the efforts of Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), it was flown over the U.S. Capitol. The only time I had pre-

viously brought the flag to a match was at a 1997 Memorial Day soccer tournament. That time, I had planned to use it to celebrate our winning the youth league championship," he recalls.

A youth soccer coach since 1992, Schad said the ceremony had an impact on his team that includes his son and the son of Maj. Jeff Owen with the 311th Human Systems Program Office.

"To me, it (flag) has even more significance (now)," Schad noted in referring to the ceremony, adding, "It seemed like the right thing to do."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

“After a request for a 30-second silence in honor of the fallen, a voice sang out God Bless America. It was the most touching moment I have seen in soccer.”

Capt. Larry Schad
Brooks soccer coach



Air Force sports



Courtesy photo

The No. 21 Wood Brothers-owned NASCAR Ford Taurus race car sported a special paint scheme during the Sept. 23 race at Dover Downs International Speedway in Delaware. On the trunk of the car were the American flag and the words, “God Bless America.”

Race car owners, sponsor pay tribute to America

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The No. 21 Wood Brothers owned NASCAR Ford Taurus race car that the Air Force advertises on had a special paint scheme during the Sept. 23 race at Dover Downs International Speedway in Delaware.

The car, driven by NASCAR Winston Cup driver Elliott Sadler, displayed an American flag with the words “God Bless America” on the trunk.

“After the recent tragedy in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, we wanted to show support for our partner, the U.S. Air Force, and for America as we all start the recovery process from these terrorist attacks,” said Charles Kim, Motorsport manager for Ford Customer Service Division.

The decision to place this decal on the Motorcraft-sponsored Taurus was made by the team and sponsor in anticipation of a race originally scheduled for Sept. 16, in New Hampshire. NASCAR officials postponed that race.

“Since (Sept. 11), American flags have been showing up everywhere as a show of support... on homes, buildings, cars and trucks, overpasses, and through e-mail and the Internet,” Kim said. “We felt that our race car should carry that great symbol too, as we return to racing in Dover.”

Eddie and Len Wood, co-owners of the No. 21 Taurus both said that they are proud to show their patriotism by having the flag decal on the race car.

The tribute is the team’s way to remember all the families affected by the recent tragedy and encourage everyone to display their flags, they said.

Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, said he welcomed the tribute.

“The Air Force appreciates the thoughts and concerns of Motorcraft and Wood Brothers Racing,” Jumper said. “We join you in saluting and supporting our country.”

American Heart Association®



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

2001 American Heart Walk

Chances are you have a family member or friend who has been affected by heart disease. Perhaps you are one of the thousands of Americans who are diagnosed with this condition.

Now is your chance to make a difference and raise funds for the lifesaving work of the American Heart Association.

The Brooks Health and Wellness Center is coordinating a team to participate in the 2001 American Heart Walk Oct. 6 at Brackenridge Park in San Antonio.

The walk is 3 miles and will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.

Participants are asked to obtain

pledges for the AHA, and seventy-seven cents from every dollar raised will be spent directly on research and education.

Each of us lead busy lives but take a moment to think of how this condition would affect your life and your loved ones.

A small donation can assist the AHA in research that will strengthen the chain of survival among these patients and educate the public on the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke.

If you are interested in participating or making a donation, contact Capt. Risa Riepma at 536-4159 or Capt. Carol Walters at 536-1505.

Get in shape,
avoid the crowds!

Visit the
Brooks Health and Wellness Center